

**REMARKS**

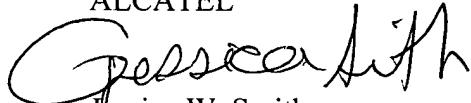
This reissue application is being filed to correct a failure to claim priority in the original issued U.S. Patent No. 5,923,450 filed on September 30, 1998 (the '450 Patent). The '450 Patent failed to claim priority to prior provisional application No. 60/060,526 filed September 30, 1997. According to M.P.E.P. 1402, if an application which became the patent to be reissued was filed prior to November 29, 2000, correction as to priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) would be permitted. In addition, since the application was filed prior to November 29, 2000, a petition for an unintentionally delayed priority claim under 37 C.F.R. 1.55(c) is not required.

**CONCLUSION**

Allowance of the application for reissue with the corrected claim of priority is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Jessica Smith at (972) 477-9109.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL



Jessica W. Smith  
Reg. No. 39,884

Dated: March 16, 2004

Alcatel USA  
Intellectual Property Department  
3400 W. Plano Parkway, M/S LEGL2  
Plano, TX 75075  
Phone: (972) 477-9109  
Fax: (972) 477-9328